

THE COIN CIRCULAR.

[WITH SUPPLEMENT.]

VOL. I. TITUSVILLE, PA., JUNE, 1875. No. 4.

NEW MEDALS.

By Act of Congress two classes of medals for rewarding gallantry in life-saving are to be issued. The medal of the first class is to be awarded to those persons who shall, at the imminent peril of their own lives, save or endeavor to save others from drowning. The medal of the second class is confined to cases of less heroic merit.

The medal of the first class has been Graphically illustrated. The design is very appropriate, and is from the pencil of Mr. Herman Faber. Obverse; a storm at sea, life-boat containing three men who are rescuing a man (man or woman?) from drowning, a sinking vessel in the distance; inscription: "Life Saving Medal of the First Class, United States of America;" reverse; an obelisk with female figure at the right, nautical emblems at the left, spread-eagle on top, and "Act of Congress, June 20, 1874" beneath; the whole surrounded by "In Testimony of Heroic Deeds in Saving Life from the Perils of the Sea." This class is of size 30.

The Lexington Centennial Committee has caused medals of gold, silver, bronze, gilt and white-metal to be struck in commemoration of the Battle of Lexington. Obverse; full length figure of minute-man on shield, "1642 Camb. Farms" at the right, "1713 Lexington" at the left, "1775" above, and "April 19th" beneath; surrounding the whole: "What a Glorious Morning for America! Lexington;" reverse: "Centennial Celebration of the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1875." This medal is of size 24.

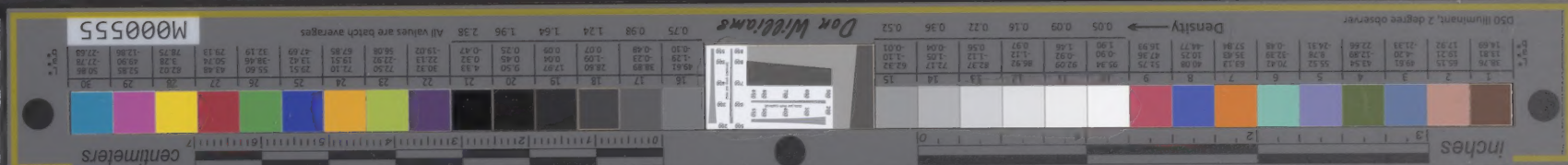
The President of the French Geographical Society has handed Minister Washburne a gold medal, presented by the Society to the family of the late Captain Hall, in commemoration of the exploits of the Arctic explorer.

SCISSORINGS.

THE COURRIER DE L'ALLIER relates that two brothers, named Michon, farmers at Saint Therence, recently discovered, while plowing, a treasure consisting of 110 coins. An earthen vase containing the pieces was broken so completely that the form of the vessel could not be ascertained. The money dates from the third century of the Christian era, and nearly all the coins bear the heads of Roman Emperors. The metal is an alloy of silver and copper.

REPORTS from Washington indicate that the Secretary of the Treasury expects to be in a position to pay out silver in lieu of the fractional currency before the meeting of Congress in December. It is estimated that there will be about \$6,000,000 in silver coin in the Treasury by the last of June, and fully ten millions by the first of September next. With this amount it is thought he can safely begin to put the law in operation,—a consummation devoutly to be wished.—BOSTON TRAVELLER.

SILVER coinage is going on so rapidly at the mint and branches, and the coins are increasing in the Treasury so fast, that it is anticipated there will be ten millions of dollars in silver on hand by the opening of September, so that if the gold premium shall fall to a favorable point, it is possible the issue of the new coins may be commenced before the meeting of Congress in December. It is rendered more probable by the steady contraction of the fractional currency, to which we have before referred. Should the issue begin with the dimes, and no more ten cent notes be issued, the dimes can be kept afloat.—TITUSVILLE HERALD.



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TITUSVILLE, PA., JUNE, 1875.

THE Nelson trophy was sold in London, the other day, in a collection of china and other objects belonging to the late Mr. W. Joy, of Cheam. The trophy is chiefly made up of the eighty-four guineas which were in Nelson's purse at the time he was mortally wounded at Trafalgar. The guineas are soldered together in the form of a pyramid, and at each angle there is a small figure in metal gilt supporting it, the whole being a kind of cenotaph, about twelve inches high, with a sarcophagus beneath the pyramid, the base bearing the inscription referring to the event. The trophy was put up with a bid of ninety guineas, and sold for £123.—N. Y. Com. Ad., April 29.

The coinage of the new twenty cent coin was commenced at the Philadelphia mint on the 19 ultimo.

THE LATE SALES.

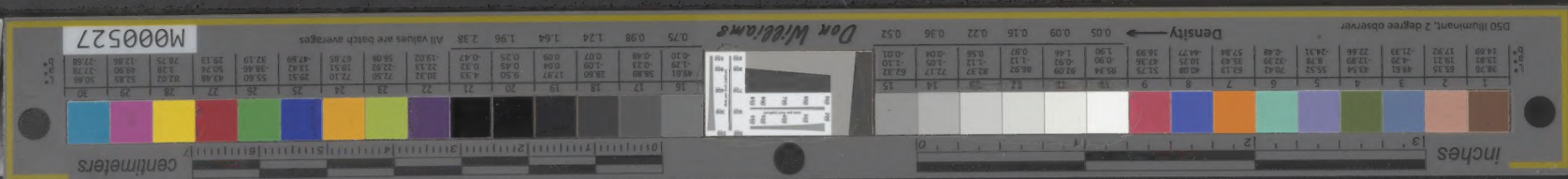
Considerable interest has lately been awakened in numismatic circles by four coin sales, happening within a week or so of each other. The sales were well attended, and despite the general financial depression—which should affect the coin trade like everything else—there were no sales which we could call "sacrifices." We can report but two of the sales this month; we will give the other two a space in July number.

On April 13 and 14, were sold 781 lots of coins by Messrs. T. Birch & Son, of Philadelphia. Some of the principal pieces were sold as follows:

Medal, Washington before Boston; bronze; very fine; size 43.....\$ 3 70
Japanese Dollar; silver; uncirculated..... 4 50
Chinese Bronze Coin; shape of a razor, 12 1/2 inches long..... 11 00
Chinese Bronze Coin; rude horse and rider; very old; size 21.... 2 25
Set of 38 Chinese Coins; classified as to dates, ranging from A. D. 1065 to 1862; arranged on cards..... 21 00
William the Conqueror Penny; very fine..... 6 00

Edward VI. Crown, 1552; very good.....\$ 5 50
Cromwell Shilling, 1658; very fair, pierced..... 3 25
James II. Crown, 1687; fair..... 3 00
William III. Half Crown, 1698; uncirculated..... 3 00
Anna Crown, 1703; "Vigo" under bust; very fine..... 3 00
James VIII. (Pretender) of Scotland; 1716; Crown; uncirculated..... 16 00
1793 Cents; two varieties of "wreath" type; both very good..... 5 75 and 6 25
1793 Cent; chain; Ameri.; fair.. 4 00
1797 " uncirculated..... 6 25
1799 " good..... 14 00
1803 " uncirculated impres- sion..... 4 50
1807 " over 1806; barely circulated..... 11 00
1808 " very good..... 3 00
1810 " over 1809; extra good 3 50
1823 " restrike in silver.... 6 25
1793 Half Cent; very good.... 3 62
1795 " " thick planchet; lettered edge; fine 4 50
Silver Medal, Libertas Americana, obv., Head of Liberty; rev., the genius of America repulsing the British lion; very fine; size 31..... 25 00
Republic of France Two Franc Piece, 1871; "Struck by the Commune;" fine..... 5 50
1798 Dollar; small eagle; 15 stars; fine..... 14 00
1854 Dollar; brilliant proof.... 20 00
1797 Half Dollar; fair for date.. 12 00
1821 Quarter Dollar; proof.... 4 25
1827 " " " " 58 00
1853 " " " " 5 05
1798 Dime; very good..... 3 70
1802 " " " " 3 75
1804 " " " " 9 50
1814 " small date; uncirculated..... 4 00
1796 Half dime; almost fine.... 5 62
1805 " " very good..... 4 25
The second sale (April 28, 29, 30 and May 1), by Messrs. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., of New York, consisted of 1809 lots, of which about 230 were general BRIC-A-BRAC and of which we make no mention in the following list. The coins and medals embraced the entire collection of Mr. Gay, together with some smaller collections, and parts of other collections, which the owners were obliged to reduce. We will state the condition of the coins as they were advertised before the auction, and should the collectors be surprised at some of the prices, the fact that

(CONTINUED IN SUPPLEMENT.)



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(SUPPLEMENT, JUNE, 1875.)

many of the pieces were over-rated in the catalogue will explain. Describing coins for public auction requires delicate judgment, and one cannot be too thoroughly acquainted with the technical terms to give true illustrations. Misrepresenting coins in auction catalogues tends to lessen the confidence of outside bidders, and will in time render these sales very unpopular. As in the preceding sale, we list some of the principal pieces:

Togodumus, King in Britain 100 years B. C.; gold stater; fine...\$ 5 50
Penny of Coenwulf, King of Mercia A. D. 796; fine..... 4 75
Penny of Athelstan; 924-940; fine..... 4 25
Penny of Canute; A. D. 1016; as it came from the die..... 7 25
Penny of Harold II., 1066; extremely fine..... 3 75
Penny of William II., 1087-1100 full face; rare type; extremely fine..... 4 75
Henry IV. Gold Noble; a very beautiful uncirculated coin... 10 50
Edward VI. Crown, 1551; good. 6 75
Elizabeth Crown; very fine.... 14 25
" Gold Angel (23½carat fine); fine; size 20..... 5 75
Mary of Scotland, 1542-1587; silver crown, uncirculated.... 11 00
Mary Gold Lion; 1553; uncirculated..... 11 00
James VIII. (Pretender) of Scotland, 1716, uncirculated pattern piece; size 20..... 7 50
Charles I. Newark Shilling; lozenge shape; pierced, but fine Commonwealth Gold Sovereign; 1649; pierced and slightly bent. 9 00
Cromwell Half Crown, 1658; brilliant proof... 11 00
Cromwell Crown; same type as preceding; fine proof..... 15 50
Geo. IV. Proof Crown; lettered edge..... 8 00
Silver Medal, Victoria, 1849; War in India; fine proof..... 6 25
Ceylon, "One Rix Dollar" (Geo. IV.); beautiful proof..... 4 00
Swedish Klippe Dollar of John III., 1571; fine..... 4 00
Martha Washington half dime; much circulated..... 4 00
Indian Peace Medal to M. Van Buren; about three ounces; fine..... 5 50
Washington Cent, 1791; large eagle; very good..... 3 87
Copper Medal, Webster; fine proof..... 3 25

Anna; Farthing; 1714; very fine...\$ 5 00
Athens; head of Minerva; extremely fine tetradrachm in the thick form..... 4 40
Syracuse; head of Minerva; rare tetradrachm; fine..... 5 25
Thurium; head of Pallas; rare tetradrachm; fine..... 5 00
Philip, father of Alexander the Great; extremely fine tetradrachm..... 7 50
Thasus; fine broad tetradrachm... 4 75
Rosa Americana Penny (half-penny size), rose crowned, 1723, uncirculated..... 6 25
Louisiana Cent of 1767; nearly proof..... 5 50
Continental Currency, 1776; fine original in tin; spelled currency; extremely fine..... 5 75
Immunis Columbia, 1787; fine uncirculated impression..... 15 00
Massachusetts Half Cent, 1787; strictly uncirculated..... 6 00
New Jersey; horse head to left, but little worn..... 4 00
Washington Cent, 1791, large eagle; nearly proof..... 5 75
1804 Cent, dark and rubbed, but not very poor..... 4 00
1814 Cent, extremely fine..... 3 50
1795 Eagle, nearly uncirculated, but pierced..... 12 50
1799 Eagle, good..... 12 00
1801 " remarkably fine.... 12 25
1794 Dollar, very good, the minting not sufficiently forcible to overcome the drift marks on the planchet, but every part of the dies fairly impressed; the head considerably worn, but on the whole a desirable dollar..... 51 00
1799 Dollar, uncirculated, with slight marks of friction..... 5 00
1801 Dollar, fine..... 4 00
1802 " equal to 1799, and with same qualification..... 8 25
1850 Dollar N. O. Mint, fine... 3 75
1795 Half Dollar, uncommonly fine..... 4 10
1796 Dime, extremely fine..... 6 25
Bronze Medal, Gen. Winfield Scott; relating to the Mexican War; fine proof; size 56..... 5 00
Mexico Crook Neck Dollar of 1825; slightly rubbed..... 5 75
Augsburg Confession Crown; uncirculated..... 6 25
John Huss, Memorial Dollar; obv. bust; rev. his martyrdom, to commemorate his being burnt as a reformer in 1415; of the few sold, one of the best... 14 00

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All values are batch averages

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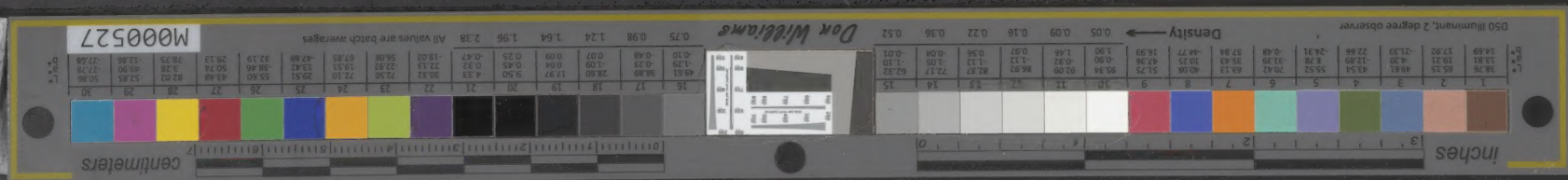
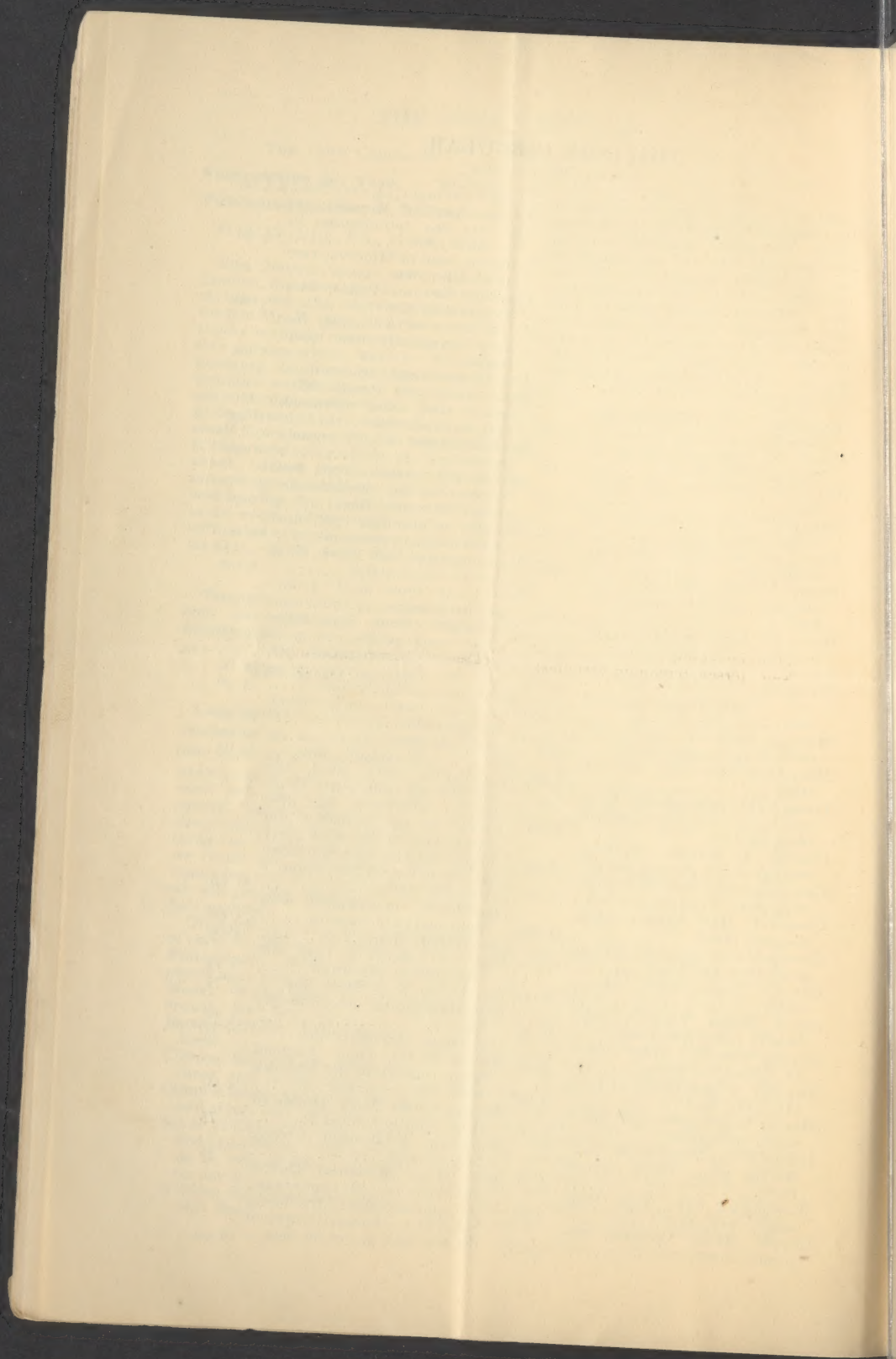
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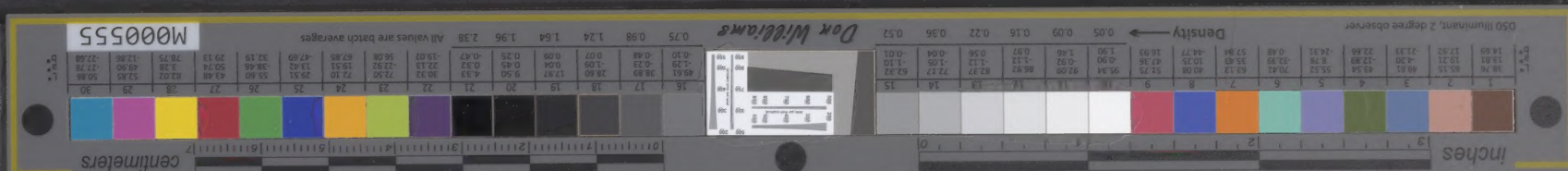
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